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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/681,212

10/09/2003

Shigenori Watari

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SUITE 370
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

EXAMINER

GORDON, BRIAN R

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1797

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

03/25/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/681,212	Applicant(s) WATARI ET AL.	
	Examiner Brian R. Gordon	Art Unit 1797	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 2-17-09.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 7-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 7-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/789,625.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed February 17, 2009 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In view of applicant's amendment the previous 102 rejection based upon Laugharn is withdrawn.

Applicant states Akira does not disclose a second acoustic wave generation means. The examiner disagrees. The figures of Akira clearly illustrates a device including a first wave generation means 205 that includes multiple individual generators (1-n) installed outside the reaction and a second generator that irradiates wave 511 see figure 5(c). The configuration is equivalent to that as illustrated in applicant's drawings. The irradiation of the waves is controlled according to the liquid level in the container. (see for example paragraphs 22 and 24).

In view of such the examiner maintains the previous rejection of the claims.

It should further be noted applicant is attempting to claim the structural location of elements relative to structure (reaction vessel) that has not been claimed as an element of the invention. It is unclear how one can attempt claim the device relative to an unclaimed element. Furthermore applicant relies upon the intended use and function of the device with the reaction vessel and its content. It should be noted that the device will not function as claimed with just any container or fluid. The reaction vessel and its

contents must be positively claimed as element of the invention. Otherwise, the functional language is not considered further structurally limiting of the device.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 7-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

It is unclear how the device can function and operate without requiring the reaction vessel and the contents. The reaction vessel should be positively claimed as element of the invention.

It is unclear if applicant intends to invoke 112 6th paragraph (means plus function) in reference to the control means. If so, it should be noted the function is directed to an unclaimed element (level in the reaction vessel of specimen and reagent).

Furthermore it should be noted that the existence of “a plurality of analysis items” is not a structural element of the device.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the

applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 7, 10-11, and 15-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Akira JP2000338113.

Akira discloses a structurally equivalent chemical analyzer including a pair of side array sound sources 205 and a pair of sound receiving elements 207 respectively opposite to one another are operated to measure the transmission of partial acoustic wave of the reaction vessel 102 at the position. This measurement is executed on each pair, a transmission amount of acoustic wave at each position is measured, and a position of the maximum difference in the transmission amount is regarded as a position of a liquid surface 209. When the acoustic wave of polarized intensity is applied from a lower sound source 206 to a sound source side, and the liquid surface 209 is pressed up to a reaction vessel 102 side surface, the liquid surface 209 is lowered at a side surface at the opposite side. This is determined by the surface tension, concentration, hydrophilic property to a vessel wall and the like of an object to be stirred, and the characteristics can be identified on the basis of the intensity of the applied acoustic wave and the polarization of the liquid surface 209. This detection is executed not only before the stirring but also similarly executed after the stirring to be compared, and the achievement in stirring and mixing can be evaluated.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. Claims 8-9 and 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Akira.

Akira discloses that multiple characteristics/parameters are stored in the controller.

In alternative, the examiner asserts it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention recognize the device maybe modified to include a controller/computer system as taught by Laugharn et al., US 6,948,843 to optimize operation of the device.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brian R. Gordon whose telephone number is 571-272-1258. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 1st Fri. Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jill Warden can be reached on 571-272-1267. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Brian R Gordon/
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1797